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Letter dated 12 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 April 2012 from H.E. Mr. Walid Al-Moualem, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated, on an urgent basis, as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Syrian Arab Republic

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

We have perused the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations (A/66/769-S/2012/208), in which it is claimed that on 9 April 2012, Syrian forces carried out acts of violence close to the Syrian-Turkish borders that led to a rapid increase in the number of Syrians crossing those borders. The letter also states that on the same date, as a result of cross-border fire, two Syrian nationals who had taken refuge in the town of Kilis were wounded, as were two Turkish citizens who work in that town.

The statements made in the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Turkey does not accord with reality and may be taken as part of the Turkish strategy to which I referred in the letter I addressed to you on 11 April 2012. That strategy consists of sheltering, arming and providing logistical support to armed terrorist elements that enter Syrian territory in order to carry out criminal attacks against Government forces and innocent civilians; destroy infrastructure; target public and private property; and force scores of people into Turkey, with a view to fabricating a humanitarian crisis. As you know, the action of a State in allowing armed groups to use its territory in order to launch attacks on a neighbouring State meets the definition of aggression set forth in General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 1974. We should like to draw your attention to the fact that this Turkish aggression was planned as soon as the internal events in Syria began: right at the start of the crisis, the Turkish authorities prepared refugee camps capable of housing some 500,000 persons at sites close to the Syrian-Turkish borders. In coordination with those authorities, the armed groups carry out operations aimed at terrorizing the civilian population and driving them into those camps, in order to enable the Turkish Government to create a refugee crisis, on the basis of which it can seek to establish humanitarian corridors and a buffer zone that will require military protection. The claims that were made in the Turkish letter are an attempt to muddy the waters and cover up the Turkish Government's aggressive policies towards Syria.

What really happened was that on the morning of 9 April 2012, the Salama crossing on the Syrian-Turkish border was attacked by armed groups and there was heavy firing. The armed forces intervened in order to resist that attack, and as a result, nine of the armed persons were killed. During that confrontation, at 12.30 p.m., some 350 Syrian citizens left the Turkish Yayladagi I camp with the aim of attacking the Kassab border security post, but were stopped by the Turkish army and police two kilometres before they reached the Turkish position of Beley. They were carrying flags, sticks and automatic/pump action weapons.

At 1800 hours on 10 April 2012, some 40 armed persons launched an attack on the Salama border security post. They were resisted by members of the police force and the army. In the exchange of fire, one of the armed persons was killed and two others received gunshot wounds. A military rifle was seized, together with a number

of shells. The armed persons escaped to Turkish territory, taking their wounded with them.

What we have set forth above proves that Turkey is directly involved in the Syrian crisis, in a manner which threatens security and stability in the region and makes it incumbent on the international community to take the appropriate measures to halt this Turkish aggression against Syria.

(*Signed*) Walid **Al-Moualem**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants